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### Montana, San Francisco museums to form partnership

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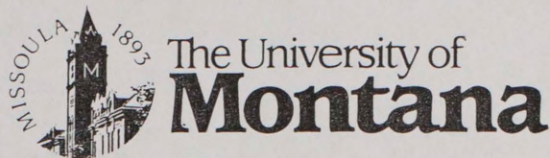
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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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May 10, 2006

**Contact:** Holly Truitt, associate director, Science Learning Museum, (406) 243-4828.

### **MONTANA, SAN FRANCISCO MUSEUMS TO FORM PARTNERSHIP**

**MISSOULA —**

The Science Learning Museum at The University of Montana and ExplorationWorks of **Helena** now are developing a partnership that will bring semi-permanent exhibits and inquiry-based science curriculum from San Francisco's Exploratorium to Big Sky Country.

The Exploratorium, a world-renowned, hands-on museum of science, art and human perception, has partnerships with science learning centers, museums and educational institutions around the globe. While the two Montana science centers are under construction, fundraising now is under way. Both will offer a rich environment of interactive science exhibits and activities starting in summer 2007.

"The Exploratorium and their staff are absolute masters at hands-on science," said Holly Truitt, associate director of the Science Learning Museum. "We are honored to have this opportunity to collaborate with them and hope this marks the beginning of a long, fruitful relationship."

During a visit to develop this collaboration, representatives and exhibits from the Exploratorium will be in Western Montana for multiple science learning events co-hosted by

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the Science Learning Museum and ExplorationWorks. These events will showcase interactive exhibits, activities and live performances.

Private events also will be held, during which Kua Patten, acting director of the Exploratorium, will give presentations on the value of science museums to communities and beyond.

The Exploratorium's visit this month is partially funded by the National Science Foundation Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research, a program that improves science and technology in states that historically haven't had high research funding levels.

Events will include a science street fair from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Great Northern Carousel in **Helena** on May 15. This event is free and open to the public and will include exhibits, activities, food vendors, and live music.

Another event, scheduled for May 17 in **Missoula**, will include a one-day science museum at the UM campus. Attended by invited classes from local K-12 schools, it will feature a group of science educators called the "Super Science Squad," a hang-glider simulation and a Bernoulli blower, which levitates a ball on a stream of air.

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